

TO THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS OF FIFA

Circular no.1679

Zurich, 1 July 2019

SG/emo/mdo

Amendments to the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are pleased to inform you of several amendments to the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (hereinafter: "the Regulations"), which were approved by the FIFA Council at its meetings in Miami, USA, on 15 March 2019 and in Paris, France, on 3 June 2019.

As you will note, the first amendment in question concerns the definition of "third party". This definition has been amended with the aim of clearly establishing that players should not be considered third parties to their own transfer.

This change to the definition has been introduced in order to reflect the jurisprudence of the Disciplinary Committee related to the reiterated practice of clubs, which enter into agreements with some of their players entitling them to receive specific compensation (a lump sum or a percentage) in the event of a future transfer to another club. Such amounts promised to the players should be seen as part of the remuneration due to the players under their employment relationships with their clubs and such agreements should not be considered a violation of FIFA's rules on third-party ownership of players' economic rights.

The relevant amendment came into force on **1 June 2019**.

Moreover, we would like to inform you of an amendment to art. 24 par. 2 of the Regulations, which increases the maximum litigious value for disputes that can be submitted to the Dispute Resolution Chamber (DRC) judge from CHF 100,000 to CHF 200,000. The aim of this amendment is to speed up proceedings and enable more cases to be decided by the DRC judge, reserving the more complex ones for the DRC itself. This change will further enhance the efficiency of the existing dispute resolution process.

The relevant amendment will come into force on **1 October 2019**.

Furthermore, please take note of additional amendments to the Regulations, detailing the regulatory framework for the mandatory implementation of the following technologies:

- Electronic player registration system;
- Electronic domestic transfer system and
- FIFA Connect System.

These amendments have been introduced based on the principles agreed on by the Football Stakeholders Committee, which were endorsed by the FIFA Council for the "First Reform Package". The changes to the Regulations will help ensure that reliable and complete player registration data in the form of an electronic passport is available. This step will not only increase transparency and professionalism, but most importantly, it will form the basis for a more efficient and coherent distribution of training rewards to the clubs entitled to such compensation.

Please also note that the amendments to the Regulations include a requirement that all international transfers of amateur players must also be processed through the FIFA Transfer Matching System.

The relevant amendments will come into force on **1 October 2019**, while mandatory implementation will be required from 1 July 2020.

You will find all the provisions concerned enclosed with this circular letter (cf. enclosures 1 and 2) for your and your clubs' perusal. The relevant parts have been emphasised for ease of reference. Furthermore, the revised edition of the Regulations is available on FIFA.com.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions in this regard.

We thank you for your kind attention to the above and for ensuring that your affiliated clubs are informed accordingly.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Fatma Samoura
Secretary General

Encl. as mentioned

cc: - FIFA Council
 - Confederations
 - Players' Status Committee
 - Dispute Resolution Chamber
 - ECA
 - FIFPro
 - WLF

ENCLOSURE 1

Amendment to definition 14 of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players

New text (amendments in **bold**)

14.

Third party: a party other than **the player being transferred**, the two clubs transferring **the** a player from one to the other, or any previous club, with which the player has been registered.

ENCLOSURE 2

New definitions of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players [RSTP]

(definitions 1 to 16 remain unchanged)

New text (amendments in **bold**)

17.

Registration: the act of making a written record containing details of a player that include:

- **the start date of the registration (format: dd/mm/yyyy);**
- **the full name (first, middle and last names) of the player;**
- **date of birth, gender, nationality and status as an amateur or a professional (as per article 2 par. 2 of these regulations);**
- **the type(s) of football the player will play (eleven-a-side football / futsal / beach soccer);**
- **the name of the club at the association where the player will play (including the FIFA ID of the club);**
- **the training categorisation of the club at the moment of the registration;**
- **the FIFA ID of the player;**
- **the FIFA ID of the association.**

18.

Electronic player registration system: an online electronic information system with the ability to record the registration (as defined herein) of all players at their association. The electronic player registration system must be linked with the FIFA Connect System through its automated programming interface ("API") in order to exchange information electronically. Through the FIFA Connect System API, the electronic player registration system must provide all registration information for all players from the age of 12 and, in particular, must assign each player a FIFA ID.

19.

FIFA Connect System: an information system designed and implemented by FIFA that provides the FIFA ID and the API that provides the technical interface between electronic domestic transfer systems, electronic player registration systems and TMS for the electronic exchange of information.

20.

FIFA ID: the worldwide unique identifier given by the FIFA Connect System to each club, association and player.

21.

International transfer: the movement of the registration of a player from one association to another association.

22.

National transfer: the change of a player from playing for one club at an association to playing for a new and different club within the same association.

23.

Electronic domestic transfer system: an online electronic information system with the ability to administer and monitor all national transfers within an association, in line with the principles of the model implemented at international level through the Transfer Matching System (cf. Annexe 3). At a minimum, the system must collect the full name, gender, nationality, date of birth and FIFA ID of the player, the player's status (amateur or professional as per article 2 par.2 of these regulations), the name and FIFA ID of the two clubs involved, as well as any payments between the clubs, if applicable. The electronic domestic transfer system must be linked with the electronic registration system of the association and with the FIFA Connect System API in order to exchange information electronically.

Amendment to article 1 par. 2 of the RSTP

New text (amendments in **bold**)

Article 1 Scope

2.

The transfer of players between clubs belonging to the same association is governed by specific regulations issued by the association concerned in accordance with article 1 paragraph 3 below, which must be approved by FIFA. Such regulations shall lay down rules for the settlement of disputes between clubs and players, in accordance with the principles stipulated in these regulations. Such regulations should also provide for a system to reward clubs investing in the training and education of young players.

The use of an electronic domestic transfer system is a mandatory step for all national transfers of professional and amateur players (both male and female) within the scope of eleven-a-side football. A national transfer must be entered in the electronic domestic transfer system each time a player is to be registered with a new club within the same association. Any registration of a player for a new club without the use of the electronic domestic transfer system will be invalid.

Amendment to article 5 par. 1 of the RSTP

New text (amendments in **bold**)

Article 5 Registration

1.

Each association must have an electronic player registration system, which must assign each player a FIFA ID when the player is first registered. A player must be registered at an association to play for a club as either a professional or an amateur in accordance with the provisions of article 2. Only **electronically** registered players identified with a FIFA ID are eligible to participate in organised football. By the act of registering, a player agrees to abide by the statutes and regulations of FIFA, the confederations and the associations.

Amendment to article 6 par. 3 of the RSTP

New text (amendments in **bold**)

Article 6 Registration periods

3.

Players may only be registered – subject to the exception provided for in article 6 paragraph 1 – upon submission **through the electronic player registration system** of a valid application from the club to the relevant association during a registration period.

Amendment to article 12 par. 1 and par. 2 of the RSTP

New text (amendments in **bold**)

Article 12 Enforcement of disciplinary sanctions

1.

Any disciplinary sanction of up to four matches or up to three months that has been imposed on a player by the former association but not yet (entirely) served by the time of the transfer shall be enforced by the new association at which the player has been registered in order for the sanction to be served at domestic level. When issuing the ITC, the former association shall notify the new association via TMS ~~(for players to be registered as professionals) or in writing (for players to be registered as amateurs)~~ of any such disciplinary sanction that has yet to be (entirely) served.

2.

Any disciplinary sanction of more than four matches or more than three months that has not yet been (entirely) served by a player shall be enforced by the new association that has registered the player only if the FIFA Disciplinary Committee has extended the disciplinary sanction to have worldwide effect. Additionally, when issuing the ITC, the former association shall notify the new association via TMS ~~(for players to be registered as professionals) or in writing (for players to be registered as amateurs)~~ of any such pending disciplinary sanction.

Amendment to article 24 par. 2 of the RSTP

New text (amendments in **bold**)

24. Dispute Resolution Chamber

2.

The DRC shall adjudicate in the presence of at least three members, including the chairman or the deputy chairman, unless the case is of a nature that may be settled by a DRC judge. The members of the DRC shall designate a DRC judge for the clubs and one for the players from among its members. The DRC judge may adjudicate in the following cases:

- i. all disputes up to a litigious value of CHF ~~100,000~~ **200,000**; [...]

Amendment to Annexe 3, article 1 par. 5 and par. 6 of the RSTP

New text (amendments in bold)

Annexe 3 Transfer matching system

Article 1 Scope

5.

The use of TMS is a mandatory step for all international transfers of professional **and amateur players (both male and female)** within the scope of eleven-a-side football, and any registration of such a player without the use of TMS will be deemed invalid. In the following articles of the present annexe, the term “player” will refer to male and female players participating in eleven-a-side football. **Within this Annexe, t**he term “international transfer” will exclusively refer to the transfer of such players between associations.

6.

EveryAn international transfer **within the scope of eleven-a-side football must** needs to be entered in TMS ~~whenever a player is to be registered as a professional (cf. article 2 paragraph 2) by the new association.~~ **If the player will be registered as an amateur by the new association, the transfer instruction shall be entered in TMS by the club(s) holding a TMS account, or, in the case of a club not holding a TMS account, by the association concerned.**

Amendment to Annexe 3, article 4 par. 3 of the RSTP

New text (amendments in bold)

Annexe 3 Transfer matching system

Article 4 Obligations of clubs

3.

Clubs **and, if applicable, associations (cf. Annexe 3, article 1 paragraph 6)** must provide the following compulsory data when creating instructions, as applicable:

- Instruction type (Engage player or Release player);
- [...];
- Declaration on third-party ownership of players’ economic rights;
- **Player’s status (amateur or professional) at the former club;**
- **Player’s status (amateur or professional) at the new club.**

Amendment to Annexe 3, article 5.1 par. 1 and new par. 3 of the RSTP

New text (amendments in **bold**)

Annexe 3 Transfer matching system

Article 5 Obligations of the associations

Article 5.1 Master data

1.

The start and end dates of both registration periods and of the season, if applicable for male and female players separately, **as well as of possible registration periods for competitions in which only amateurs participate (cf. article 6 par. 4 of these regulations)**, shall be entered in TMS at least 12 months before they come into force. Under exceptional circumstances, associations may amend or modify their registration period dates up until they commence. Once the registration period has begun, no alteration of dates will be possible. The registration periods shall always comply with the terms of article 6 paragraph 2.

2. unchanged

3. [new paragraph]

Associations shall ensure that all affiliated clubs and every player currently registered with the association have a FIFA ID.

Amendment to the title of article 7 of Annexe 3 of the RSTP

New text (amendments in **bold**)

Annexe 3 Transfer matching system

Article 7 Role of FIFA TMS GmbH

Amendment to Annexe 3, art. 8, art. 8.1 and art. 8.2 of the RSTP

New text (amendments in **bold**)

Annexe 3 Transfer matching system

Article 8. Administrative procedure governing the transfer of ~~professionals~~ **players** between associations

8.1 Principles

1.

Any ~~professional~~ player who is registered with a club that is affiliated to one association may only be registered with a club affiliated to a different association after an ITC has been delivered by the former association and the new association has confirmed receipt of the ITC. The ITC procedure must be conducted exclusively via TMS. Any form of ITC other than the one created by TMS shall not be recognised.

2.

At the very latest, the ITC must be requested by the new association in TMS on the last day of the **relevant** registration period of the new association.

8.2 Creating an ITC for a ~~professional~~ player

1.

All data allowing the new association to request an ITC shall be entered into TMS, confirmed and matched by the club wishing to register a player during one of the registration periods established by that association (cf. Annexe 3, article 4 paragraph 4). When entering the relevant data, depending on the selected instruction type, the new club shall upload at least the following documents into TMS:

- a copy of the contract between the new club and the professional player, **if applicable**;
- a copy of the transfer or loan agreement concluded between the new club and the former club, if applicable;
- copy of proof of the player's identity, nationality(ies) and birth date, such as passport or identity card;
- proof of player's last contract end date and reason for termination, if applicable.
- proof signed by the player and his/her former club that there is no third-party ownership of the player's economic rights, if applicable;

Where third-party ownership of players' economic rights has been declared (cf. Annexe 3, article 4 paragraph 2), the former club shall upload a copy of the relevant agreement with the third party.

Documents must be uploaded in the format required by the relevant ~~TMS~~**FIFA** department.

If explicitly requested, a document not available in one of the four official languages of FIFA (English, French, German and Spanish), or a specifically defined excerpt of it, must be uploaded in TMS together with its respective translation in one of the four official languages. Failure to do so may result in the document in question being disregarded.

A ~~professional~~ player is not eligible to play in official matches for his/her new club until the new association has confirmed the receipt of the ITC and has entered and confirmed the player registration date in TMS (cf. Annexe 3, article 5.2 paragraph 4).

2.

Upon notification in the system that the transfer instruction is awaiting an ITC request, the new association shall immediately request the former association through TMS to deliver an ITC for the ~~professional~~ player ("ITC request").

3.

In the case of an international transfer of a player who had professional status at his former club, upon receipt of the ITC request, the former association shall immediately request the former club and the professional player to confirm whether the professional player's contract has expired, whether early termination was mutually agreed or whether there is a contractual dispute.

4.

Within seven days of the date of the ITC request, the former association shall, by using the appropriate selection in TMS, either:

- a) deliver the ITC in favour of the new association and enter the deregistration date of the player; or

b) reject the ITC request and indicate in TMS the reason for **the** rejection, which may be either that the contract between the former club and the professional player has not expired or that there has been no mutual agreement regarding its early termination.

The latter possibility applies to the international transfer of players who had professional status at their former clubs only.

5.

Once the ITC has been delivered, the new association shall confirm receipt and complete the relevant player registration information in TMS.

6.

If the new association does not receive a response to the ITC request within 15 days of the ITC request being made, it shall immediately register the player with the new club on a provisional basis ("provisional registration"). The new association shall complete the relevant player registration information in TMS (cf. Annexe 3, article 5.2 paragraph 6). A provisional registration shall become permanent one year after the ITC request. The Players' Status Committee may withdraw a provisional registration, if, during this one-year period, the former association presents valid reasons explaining why it did not respond to the ITC request.

7.

The former association shall not deliver an ITC **for a professional player** if a contractual dispute on grounds of the circumstances stipulated in Annexe 3, article 8.2 paragraph 4 b) has arisen between the former club and the professional player. In such a case, upon request of the new association, FIFA may take provisional measures in exceptional circumstances. If the competent body authorises the provisional registration (cf. article 23 paragraph 3), the new association shall complete the relevant player registration information in TMS (cf. Annexe 3, article 5.2 paragraph 6). Furthermore, the professional player, the former club and/or the new club are entitled to lodge a claim with FIFA in accordance with article 22. FIFA shall then decide on the issue of the ITC and on sporting sanctions within 60 days. In any case, the decision on sporting sanctions shall be taken before the delivery of the ITC. The delivery of the ITC shall be without prejudice to compensation for breach of contract.

Amendment to Annexe 3, article 9.2 par. 3 of the RSTP

New text (amendments in **bold**)

Annexe 3 Transfer matching system

Article 9 Sanctions

Article 9.2 Competence

3.

The relevant ~~TMS~~ **FIFA** department may also initiate sanction proceedings on its own initiative for non-compliance with the obligations under its jurisdiction (specifically with respect to the defined Administrative Sanction Procedure (cf. FIFA ~~Circulars~~ **1478 and 1609**)) and when authorised to do so by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee for explicitly specified violations.

Amendment to Annexe 3a, article 1 of the RSTP

New text (amendments in **bold**)

Annexe 3a Administrative procedure governing the transfer of players between associations outside TMS

Article 1 Scope

The present annexe governs the procedure for the international transfer of all ~~amateur male and female players participating in eleven-a-side football and futsal~~ **players**.